

Civil Service Scandals

Some Opinions of The Press

The following are some extracts from the press opinions throughout the country on the disgraceful state of affairs which the Civil Service Commissioners report discloses.

(Toronto Telegram, Independent)

Awful shock to find a royal commission that stirs up trouble for the government that appoints it and pays its salary.

Also, there will not be so many commissions appointed in Canada if the commissioners are to act like J. M. Courtney, C.M.G., Thomas Fyfe and P. J. Bain, or in other words like honest men.

The next royal commission that is appointed at Ottawa will be hand-picked and its members placed under bonds to find out nothing but the road to the pay car.

A country ruled by public opinion instead of by partisan prejudice, would demand the creation of a small but vigilant commission of auditors and critics to do the work that John Lord Macdonald, Canada's greatest Auditor general was politically assassinated for attempting.

(Ottawa Journal, Independent)

The political pull has much to do with the evils the commissioners refer to, and no radical improvement need ever be expected, they say, until this political pull is completely eliminated from all branches of the service. The trouble is not of recent origin, but has been long continued, and practices persisted in for many years.

There will have to be a further full and fearless investigation into the affairs of the Marine Department. The people of Canada will be satisfied with nothing else.

(Toronto News)

The patronage system is the prolific source of extravagance and corruption. "Pull" always operates for personal and party advantage. Public servants who are the progeny of patronage committees and primarily the servants of Cabinet Ministers are naturally in a degree the instruments of the agencies upon which they depend for appointment and promotion. They are bound to make the public interest subservient to the interests of their masters and to wink at waste and jobbery when to take any other course would endanger their positions and close to them the avenues of advancement in the service.

All over this country little groups of partisans meet from week to week in order to determine who shall be appointed to do public business of Canada. The system is grotesque in its absurdity, and infinitely injurious to public morals and the efficiency of the public administration. It is as

sumed by those who have inside knowledge that by reasonable and practicable economies \$10,000,000 which are now wasted on partisan jobs and partisan favorites could be saved to the Treasury every year.

(Hamilton Herald)

Surely the introduction of a large measure of civil service reform cannot be much longer delayed.

What the commission recommends as the remedy is what the Herald has for years been urging as a reform most needed in Canada—the adoption of the British civil system; the control and regulation of the civil service by a permanent independent commission; appointment through competitive examination; promotion by merit; the abolition of political patronage in civil service appointments. We honestly believe that the introduction of this reform would do more to do away with electoral corruption and fraud, to eliminate graft from public business, and to elevate the tone of public life in this country than could be done by the enactment of the most vigorous punitive laws which could be devised.

(Calgary Herald)

The report of the Civil Service Commission is a scathing condemnation of the present system of government appointments and the present management of government departments. It is evident that the commissioners have done their work thoroughly, undeterred by political considerations or by personal feelings.

The commission finds that the outside civil service of the country is "wholly steeped in politics." The Ottawa departments, being under the watchful eyes of deputy ministers and close to the sources of power and advancement, are fairly well managed, but in the outside service "politics is of greater importance in making appointments and promotions than the public interest. Those who have political pull use it for what it is worth. Surely a more sweeping indictment was never found.

The report will be a hard blow at the prestige of the present government. Civil service reform was one of the strongest cries of the Liberals when in opposition. Purity of administration was their battle-cries. Politics in the civil service was anathema to them. They carried with them into office the protests of a party whose lofty aspirations would remain unfulfilled by considerations of expediency or political influence. It was their promise that the civil service would be reformed, but after twelve years it is stated by an impartial commission to be honey-combed with corruption and permeated by incompetency and graft.

The Men Who Exposed The Scandals

Mr. Thomas Fyfe was formerly general manager of the Merchant's Bank of Canada. "A man of sound judgment and the highest integrity his office is considered invaluable in financial affairs."

Mr. Fyfe is a native of Edinburgh and received his education at Scotland's capital.

He was appointed joint general manager of the Merchant's Bank of Canada in June, 1897. Mr. Fyfe was president of the Canadian Bankers' Association in 1902-96.

Mr. John Mortimer Courtney, Deputy Minister of Finance, is the

second joint of the late John Sampson Courtney, of Alberta House, Penance England, and was born in July 22, 1836. From Confederation he was practically in charge of the finances of the Dominion of Canada until his retirement.

On June 2, 1899, he was appointed chief clerk and assistant secretary to the treasury board, and on August 1, 1898, deputy minister of finance. His high rank as a financier, coupled with his generosity in undertaking the steamer ship of the Indian "Famine Fund," the Canadian "Famine Fund," the Soldiers' Memorial Fund and other similar charities, earned him the honor of being appointed a C. M. G.

and his services received the further recognition of the Imperial Service Order.

Mr. P. J. Bain is a retired merchant of Quebec. He is a man of integrity and ripe experience in the conduct of business affairs.

Information Wanted on Coal Lands

Ottawa, April 2.—In the House of Commons today Mr. R. Ames gave notice that he will ask for returns showing what coal lands were granted through the agency of P. E. Leavelle, of Edmonton, McGivern and Hayden, of Ottawa; what coal lands are now or have been leased or owned by the Alberta Development Company and what lands were granted in certain districts through the agency of J. W. Betts (or his firm), in Winnipeg.

The offices of Alberta have written for permission to erect a \$5,000 bungalow at Rockville for the use of its representatives during the D. R. A. meet, plans for which were received by Secretary Major Winter today. The question of granting a site must be settled by the department, but no difficulty is anticipated. This will be the first lot to be erected by other than the Ottawa corps. In design the bungalow of the western men will be exceedingly striking.

Doesn't Fancy Muck Rake

Ottawa April 2.—Judge Casels, of the exchequer court, is disinclined to accept the task of investigating the marine department as he would prefer to devote his time to exchequer court work. The Opposition in the House this afternoon will suggest that the civil service commission be empowered to continue the inquiry in to the department.

EVELYN NOT WANTED.

New York, April 2.—Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw and K. R. Thomas have been refused service at the Knickerbocker Hotel and were, incidentally, practically put out of the hotel restaurant. Manager Regan explained by saying that he did not want their patronage, and when he recognized her he decided they could not be served.

ARTISTS SUICIDE.

New York, April 2.—Surrounded by the pictures of animals which he had painted, Mercer Van Zanta was found dead to-day from gas in his home in the Bronx.

Conrad McDonald said after an investigation that he believed that Van Zanta had committed suicide.

A letter from his wife from whom he had lived apart for several years, telling him a reconciliation was impossible, is supposed to have instigated the rash act.

EVERY TWO MILES COST A LIFE

Winnipeg April 2.—A staff representative of the Winnipeg Telegram, who had returned from a trip of over 100 miles of line of the Grand Trunk Pacific between Smeaton and Fort Williams, has a shocking story of fifty men blown to pieces during the past twelve months and many more maimed or killed. The report is replete with figures, names and data on which the tragedies have occurred.

Plenty of Seed Grain in Province

A total of 285,826 bushels of grain has been ordered by the farmers of Alberta from the seed grain branch of the Dominion Government to be used as seed in the province this year. The greater portion of this seed grain was purchased in the province, there being only some 30,000 English oats and a little Ontario barley used here. Practically all of the oats consumed have been obtained in Alberta, and it is not that considerable oats had been bought at outside points and it was thought desirable to dispose of it. This report indicates that the crop failure last year in Alberta was not so disastrous as was supposed.

The time for receiving applications for seed grain closed on March 31st. The following is a report of the number of bushels of each kind of grain ordered in the various districts in the province:—

No. Wheat Oats Barley
Edmonton 2164 20,947 108,872 18,979
Red Deer 573 1,990 39,245 6,384
Calgary 459 2,006 37,577 4,816
Lethbridge 133 2,692 42,790 1,027
Finally able 249 1,096 14,318 2,226

Total 3561 29,721 195,672 33,432

Of this quantity of grain required 156,628 bushels of wheat, 68,886 bushels of oats and 11,133 bushels of barley were applied for by homesteaders and 12,987 1/2 bushels of wheat, 112,468 bushels of oats and 20,067 1/2 bushels of barley were applied for by parties owning or renting lands. Of the total amount of grain required by those financially able to pay for it that applied for by homesteaders was 514 bushels of wheat, 4,773 bushels of oats and 683 1/2 bushels of barley. That applied for by parties owning or renting land was 582 bushels of wheat, 9,545 bushels of oats and 1,534 bushels of barley.

The distribution of this grain is now being carried on apace and by the middle of April it is expected that the grain ordered will all be pretty well distributed.

The huge undertaking of buying, cleaning and delivering this large volume of grain has necessitated a large amount of work. One drawback in the distribution is the fact that all of the wheat, oats and barley ordered by one man cannot delivered at once, and this will in many cases necessitate a second trip to the nearest station, by the farmer to procure all of his seed.

Burned to Death

Toronto, April 2.—Ephraim Goldman, employed in a Jewish bread bakery on Ontario street was probably fatally burned in a fire which broke out early this morning and caused \$4,000 damages. Entrapped by the flames he fled to the cellar and was with difficulty dragged out by the firemen through a window.

CHEAP TIMBER BIRTHS.

Ottawa, April 2.—A return laid on the table to-day by the Minister of the Interior at the request of Mr. S. S. Lake of Qu'Appelle, emphasizes statements already made in the House as to the disposal of large timber areas in the Sturgeon Lake and Zessler Lake Lake district for a trial. The return shows that across the Sturgeon Lake district, 100 square miles were secured by J. W. Stuart, of Winnipeg, for \$1,675. There was no competition, the limits being located so far from civilization that people unacquainted with the West had not sufficient time to make an inspection of the timber. Mr. J. W. Stuart is a member of the firm of Foley Brothers, Laramie and Company, the big building contractors. Two other bidders for the northern territory were secured by Mr. E. J. Elliott of Winnipeg, and Mr. R. Blackburn, the former paying only one hundred dollars for his berth.

Slavery in U. S. A.

St. Louis April 2.—Seven men from Southeast Missouri, who had been convicted in the federal court on the charge of peonage, surrendered to United States Marshall Morsey and were taken by him to-day to the United States prison at Leavenworth, Kansas, where they will serve terms from one and a half to three and a half years. They were convicted in the United States District Court at Cape Girardeau, of having kept negroes in bondage. They applied to the United States Supreme Court, which tribunal annulled the judgments. They said to-day that when they left their homes near Sikeston yesterday to come to St. Louis 200 of their friends and the brass band of Sikeston accompanied them to the train. Their fines and the length of their terms of imprisonment are: Charles M. Smith, \$5,000, three and one half years; Chas. M. Smith Jr., \$5,000, two and one half years; Wm. Wood, \$100, two and one half years; Floyd Wood, \$100, two years; Ben Stone, \$100, one and a half years; Ben Stone, \$100, one and a half years.

BRITISH DESTROYER CUT IN TWO.

Portsmouth April 2.—During manoeuvres to-day the British destroyer "Tiger" was run into and cut in two by the cruiser "Berwick." Twenty-two of the men were rescued but it is believed that twenty-three were drowned.

Plot Against Sultan

Constantinople, April 2.—The latest plot against the Sultan is now under investigation by the police and promises to involve several Greeks and Russians. Among the latter is the dragoman of the Russian embassy. The dragoman, having an official position cannot be arrested but being subject to examination by consent of the Russian Ambassador. Many other foreigners are said to be implicated, several already being placed under arrest.

Bad Flood in Kentucky

Lexington, Ky., April 2.—The worst flood in years prevails over central and eastern Kentucky to-day.

Heavy rains, falling almost continually for thirty-six hours have caused an overflow in many streams including Kentucky Bluff Sandy and Red Rivers.

The northern and southern section of this city is partly submerged and many families have been driven from their homes. The water is four feet deep in localities.

The Leader's newspaper press room is flooded and the press has been put out of commission.

The towns of Farmers, Salt Lake, and Wyoming, on the Licking river, are in danger.

G.T.P. Will Build Soon

Ottawa, April 2.—In the senate rail way committee during a discussion on the Grand Trunk Pacific branch line, Senator Watson asked what action was to be taken by the company in regard to resolutions of the Regina and Qu'Appelle boards of trade, calling for the immediate construction of branches.

Mr. Bigger, for the G. T. P., said the Brandon branch and Regina and Yorkton branches had been surveyed and the Calgary branch had been partly surveyed. He stated the company planned to have construction begun as soon as possible, so branches might be ready to serve the country when the portion of the main line they connected with was ready for traffic.

Socialist Candidate for Winnipeg

Winnipeg, April 2.—A mass meeting of the Socialist party of Winnipeg was held in the Rutherford hall last night with the object of nominating a candidate to contest Winnipeg in the next general election. Over three hundred members turned out and unanimously expressed their opinion that a candidate should be put in the field.

After the convention had been addressed by Comrade Leheny of Calgary, Comrade Dale, ex-secretary of the Dominion executive, with several other men, the meeting was thrown open for nominations. As J. D. Hous ton had been previously endorsed by the various locals in the city, it was moved and seconded that he represent the party in the forth-coming elections.

The motion was carried with great enthusiasm.

WANT GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Ottawa April 2.—A representative gathering of western grain growers, railway men and grain dealers, discussed with Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. Messrs Fisher and Templeman to-day upon some of the proposals contained in the report of the Royal Commission on the grain trade of the Dominion. Strong representations were made by the western grain growers in favor of the government taking over terminal elevators at the head of the great lakes.

The Grain Growers' Association as called the Winnipeg Grain Exchange as having had an influence upon the trade and of being under the influence of banks and railways, while the Exchange representatives defended the institution. The conference adjourned until to-morrow.

Around The City

Mrs. J. E. Green will not receive during April and May.

Mrs. J. L. Porter will receive on the third Thursday of this month.

Messrs Sheppard & Garbe, real estate agents, etc., have removed to the Duggan Block.

The Ladies' Hospital Aid will meet in the Council Chamber on Monday afternoon at three o'clock.

Rev Canon Webb will address the congregation of Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday, evening April 8th on matters of importance in connection with the work of the diocese.

Chronicle Literary Columns

ted."

I unrolled the big thirty-two-mile to-the-inch map of India, and two smaller frontier maps, hauled down volume Inf-Kan of the Encyclopedia Britannica, and the men consulted them.

"See here," said Dravot, his thumb on the map. "Up to Jagdallah, Peshawar and me know the road. We'll turn off to the right at Jagdallah through Laghmann territory. Then we get among the hills—fourteen thousand feet—fifteen thousand feet—it will be cold work there, but it don't look very far on the map."

I handed him Wood on the source of the Dehra. Carnehan was deep in the encyclopedia.

"They're a mixed lot," said Dravot reflectively. "and it won't help us to know the names of their tribes. The more tribes the more they'll fight and the better for us. From Jagdallah to Kabul, Mian."

I gave him all the information about the country, sketchy and inaccurate as it was. "I protested 'No one knows anything about it really. Here's the file of the United Services' Institute. Read what Bellow says."

"Bellow Belle," said Carnehan. "Pan, they're an all-fired lot of heathens, but this book here says they think they're related to us English."

I smoked while the men pored over Raverty, Wood, the maps, and the encyclopedia.

"There is no 'use you' waiting," said Dravot phlegmatically. "It's about a clock now. We'll go before six o'clock if you want to: sleep, and we won't steal any of the papers. Don't you wait. We're two, harmless lunatics, and if you come to harm, leaving down to the Serai, we'll shoot you."

"Good bye to you," I answered.

"You're two looks," I answered. "You'll be turned back at the frontier or cut up the minute you set foot in Afghanistan. Do you want any money or a recommendation down country? I can help you to the chance of work next week."

"Next week we shall be hard at work ourselves, thank you," said Dravot. "It isn't so easy being a king as it looks." When we've got our kingdom in going order we'll let you know, and you can come up and help us govern it."

"Would two lunatics make a Contract like that?" said Carnehan, with subdued pride, showing me a greasy half sheet of note paper on which was written the following: I copied it then and there as a curiosity. This Contract between me and you perusing witnesseth in the name of God—Amen hand so forth.

(One) That me and you will settle this matter together: i.e., to be Kings of Kalistan.

(Two) That you and me will not while this matter is being settled, look at any liquor, nor any woman, black, white or brown, so as to get mixed up with one or the other harm and the better for us. From Jagdallah to Kabul, Mian."

(Three) That we conduct ourselves with dignity and discretion, and if one of us gets into trouble the other will stay by him.

Signed by you and me this day, Peachey Tailafero Carnehan Daniel Dravot.

Both Gentlemen at Large.

"There was no need for the last article," said Carnehan, blushing modestly. "but it looks regular. Now you know the sort of men that loafers are—we are loafers, Dan, until we get out in India—and do you think that we would sign a contract like that unless we are in earnest? We have kept away from the two things that make life worth living."

"You won't enjoy your lives much longer if you are going to try this idiotic adventure. Don't set the office on fire," I said, "and go away before nine o'clock."

I let them still poring over the maps and making notes on the back of the Contract. "Be sure to come

down to the Serai to-morrow," were their parting words.

The Kumbharan Serai is the great four-square sink of humanity where the strings of camels and horses from the north load and unload. All the nationalities from Central Asia may be found there, and most of the folk of India proper. Baluch and Bokhara there meet Bengal and Bombay, and try to draw eye teeth. You can see ponies, turquoises, Persian pussy cats, saddle bags, fat tailed sheep and muck in the Kumbharan Serai, and get many strange things for nothing. In the afternoon I went down there to see whether my friends intended to keep their word or were lying about drunk.

A priest attired in fragments of ribbons and rags stalked up to the gravely twisting child's paper whirling. Behind him was his servant, bending under the load of a crate of mud toys. The two were loading up two camels, and the inhabitants of the serai watched them with shrieks of laughter.

"The priest is mad," said a horse dealer to me. "He is going up to Kabul to sell toys to the Amir. He cried 'Come down also,' Sahib, a little along the road, and I will sell thee a charm—an amulet that shall make the King of Kalistan."

Then the light broke upon me, and I followed the two camels out of the Serai till we reached open road and the priest halted.

"What do you think of that?" said he in English. "Carnehan can't talk their patter, so I've made him my servant. He makes a handsome servant. It isn't for nothing that I've been knocking about the country for fourteen years. Didn't I do that talk-ner? We'll hitch on to a caravan at Peshawar till we get to Jagdallah, and then we'll see if we can get deliveries for our camels and strike into Kalistan. Whirligigs for the Amir, O Lord; Dat your hand under the camel bags and tell me what you feel."

I felt the butt of a Martini, and an other and another.

thieves, robbers, the blessing of Pir Khan on the pigs, dogs and perjurors. Who will take the protected of God to the north to sell charms that are never still to the Amir? The camels shall not gall, the sons shall not fall sick, and the wives shall remain faithful while they are away, of the men who give me place in their caravan. Who will assist me to slipper the King of the Roos with a golden slipper with a silver heel? The protection of Pir Khan be upon his lappets." He spread out the stiles of his girdle and prenticed between the lines of tethered horses.

"There starts a caravan from Peshawar to Kabul in twenty days, Hurr," said the Baisafai trader. "My camels go therewith. Do thou also go and bring us good luck."

"I will go even now," shouted the priest. "I will depart upon my winged camels, and be at Peshawar in a day. Ho, Hazz Mir Khan," he yelled to his servant, "drive out the camels, but let me first mount my own."

He leaped on the back of his beast as it knelt, and turning round to me he cried "Come down also," Sahib, a little along the road, and I will sell thee a charm—an amulet that shall make the King of Kalistan."

Then the light broke upon me, and I followed the two camels out of the Serai till we reached open road and the priest halted.

"What do you think of that?" said he in English. "Carnehan can't talk their patter, so I've made him my servant. He makes a handsome servant. It isn't for nothing that I've been knocking about the country for fourteen years. Didn't I do that talk-ner? We'll hitch on to a caravan at Peshawar till we get to Jagdallah, and then we'll see if we can get deliveries for our camels and strike into Kalistan. Whirligigs for the Amir, O Lord; Dat your hand under the camel bags and tell me what you feel."

I felt the butt of a Martini, and an other and another.

"Twenty of 'em," said Dravot placidly. "Twenty of 'em, and ammunition to correspond, under the whirligigs and the mud dolls."

"Heaven help you if you are caught with those things," I said. "A Mar that is worth her weight in silver among the Pathans?"

"Fifteen hundred rupees of capital—every rupee we could beg, borrow or steal—are invested on those two camels," said Dravot.

"We won't get caught. We're going through the Khabar with a regular caravan. Who'd touch a poor priest?"

"Have you got everything you want?" I asked overcome with astonishment.

"Not yet, but we shall soon. Give us a memento of your kindness. Brother you did me a service yesterday, and that time in Marwar. Half my kingdom shall you have, as the saying is."

I slipped a charm compass from my watch chain and handed it up to the priest.

"Godbye," said Dravot, giving me his hand cautiously. "It's the last time we'll shake hands with an Englishman these many days. Shake hands with him, Carnehan," he cried as the second camel passed me.

Carnehan leaned down and shook hands. Then the camels passed away along the dusty road, and I was left alone to wonder. My eye could detect no failure in the disguises. The scene in the Serai attested that they were complete to the native mind. There was just the chance, therefore, that Carnehan and Dravot would be able to wander through Afghanistan without detection. But, beyond, they would find death, certain and awful death.

Ten days later a native friend of mine giving me the news of the day from Peshawar, wound up his letter with: "There has been much laughter here on account of a certain priest who is going in his estimation to sell petty gauds and insignificant trinkets which he ascribes as great charms to

H. H. the Amir of Bokhara. He passed through Peshawar and associated himself to the second summer caravan that goes to Kabul. The merchants are pleased, because through superstition they imagine that such mad fellows bring good fortune. The two then were beyond the border. I would have prayed for them, but, that night, a real king died in Europe, and demanded an obituary notice.

The wheel of the world swings through the same phases again and again. Summer passed and winter thereafter came and passed again. The daily paper continued and I with it, and upon the third summer there fell a hot night, a night issue, and a strained waiting for something to be telegraphed from the other side of the world, exactly as had happened before. A few great men had died in the past two years, the machines worked with more clatter, and some of the trees in the office garden grew a few feet taller. But that was all the difference.

I passed over to the press room, and went through just such scenes as I have already described. The nervous tension was stronger than it had been

(To be continued).

Wainwright's Under-Taking Parlors.



"Anglo Stock of Coffins and Caskets always on Hand."

"General Directing and Undertaking Good Hearers in Attendance."

READ THIS CAREFULLY

Strathcona has the only Daily Paper between Edmonton and Calgary
Do YOU Support it? If Not, Why Not?

CHRONICLE JOB PRINTING

The Spring rush will soon be on and the Present is THE time to get your Office Stationery Printed. The Chronicle Job Department turns out the best of Work from the hands of Experienced Workmen

WELL PRINTED STATIONERY

is one of the best Advertisements a Business man can have. An Artistic Letter Head, Bill Head or Envelope Attracts Attention and brings you Business

GIVE US A TRIAL

